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DAYTON, Ohio, March 4, 1969 --- Very Rev. Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., President of the University of Dayton, will receive the U.S. Army's Distinguished Civilian Service Award this Wednesday, March 5, at a special luncheon ceremony in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Union Ballroom at 1:15 p.m. The award will be made by Deputy Commanding General Edwin H. Burba of the U.S. First Army, representing the Secretary of the Army.

The decoration is the highest award the U.S. Army can bestow on a civilian.

The citation accompanying the award states in part: "Father Roesch has displayed inspirational leadership, initiative, and forceful determination in support of the ROTC program at the University of Dayton. He has demonstrated a keen and abiding interest in the affairs of the Military Science Department and has taken advantage of every opportunity to publicly express his support of the ROTC program not only at the University of Dayton, but throughout the United States. Through his leadership the University of Dayton Corps of Cadets has become the second largest in the country. During his tenure there has been a 300% increase in the yearly output of Reserve Officers. As the representative of the National Catholic Education Association to the Army Advisory Panel on ROTC Affairs, Father Roesch provided invaluable assistance in the development of major improvements and modifications in the policies and programs of Army ROTC."

The Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service consists of a gold medal, lapel rosette and a citation certificate. It is awarded to private citizens who serve the Army in an advisory capacity or as consultants who render distinguished service during peacetime which makes a substantial contribution to the accomplishment of the Army's mission.

The University of Dayton has one of the oldest ROTC programs in the country and is the second largest in the United States with an enrollment of over 2,500 cadets.